

second SUNDAY OF ADVENT

■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! May we learn to recognize you in our daily lives.

■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Second Sunday of Advent (Cycle C) Luke 3:1-6

“The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.”

■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

Today’s Gospel is very specific. We are told the names of the ruling leaders of the government and the church, leaders like Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate and Caiaphas. And we hear the names of the lands over which they ruled: Judea, Galilee and Abilene.

At first glance, all this information may feel unnecessary, even a bit overwhelming. It seems to take forever before we meet our main character, John the Baptist. Why all this information?

The Gospel is specific because God is specific. God works through the people, places and situations in our everyday lives. Each moment is a new opportunity to meet God—and God wants to be present to us in those very specific moments.

For Ana Maria Piedrahita—the founder of Sapia, an artisan group in Bogota, Colombia—God was at work in orange peels. In Colombia, where oranges grow in abundance and fresh-squeezed orange juice is very popular, many vendors have to pay someone to get rid of all those extra peels.

While Ana Maria was traveling, she saw a box made out of old orange peels. This inspired her to use orange peels to make fun, useful items. Ana Maria began gathering up all the orange peels she could find and turned them into jewelry and figurines. Soon her business grew and she was employing other people!

What began as a problem—too many orange peels!—now provides people with a way to earn money and support their families. Ana Maria’s story reminds us to take a deeper look at the ordinary events of our daily lives and to see God at work within them.



Photo courtesy of Ten Thousand Villages

PRAY

God of all people, help us to see you in each moment of our day. May we always remember that you come to us in the people, places and things we encounter. Amen

REFLECT

Think about your own life: your family, your school, your work and your friends. How is God trying to talk to you?

ACT

This week, try to find the “orange peels” in your life. Pay attention to God’s presence in one person or situation.

GIVE

Instead of buying your family or friends toys for Christmas, why not give them an ethically produced gift made by someone like Ana Maria? Visit ethicaltrade.crs.org.